

Invasive Species Alert

Wels Catfish

(*Silurus glanis*)

Not documented to be introduced or established in the United States

Identification:

- Can grow up to 10 feet long and live up to 80 years
- Very large mouth with 3 pairs of barbels – 1 pair on upper jaw, 2 on lower jaw
- Brown back and sides with a nearly white belly



<http://hummingbirdfishfinderreviews.com>

Habitat: Generally inhabit lowland rivers, backwaters, and well-vegetated lakes, but will occasionally enter brackish water in the Black and Baltic Seas.

Diet: Nocturnal predators, forage for fish and other vertebrates as adults. Juveniles are benthic feeders, preying on a variety of fish and invertebrates.



© Mattia Menchetti From EOL (2014)

Native Range: Central and Eastern Europe

Local Concern: Voracious predatory habits make the wels catfish a serious threat to populations of native vertebrates. Water quality may also be reduced through drastic trophic alterations.

Potential Means of Introduction: Aquaculture release, illegal stocking